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American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - March 1997" (1997). *American Irish Newsletter*. Paper 67. http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews/67

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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 22, Number 3

March 1997

British and Irish Governments Must Move!

The Major Government has put an end to the current round of "all-party peace talks" by stating that Sinn Fein would definitely not be included. The reason given, the relatively minor return to violence in Northern Ireland is, of course, just a cover for Britain's real policy aims which were to drag out the talks and have them fade away without any real changes in Northern Ireland. The notion that things might pick up after the British election provides no hope for progress.

The PEC has long predicted this outcome but we take no satisfaction in this. However, this is not the time for discouragement or sulking. There was never a more important time to raise our voices, loud and clear! Remember, in the Downing Street Declaration and the follow-up Framework Document, it was the British and Irish governments which agreed to reforms in the political structures in Northern Ireland. It would have been wonderful if all the local political parties could have agreed on at least the principles of reform, but given the veto power granted to the Unionist parties and their absence of any desire to compromise (despite substantial Nationalist compromises), it was unrealistic to think that a forum of political parties in Northern Ireland would advance reform. It never happened anywhere else, e.g. the Israeli Palestinian Agreements certainly did not involve the Hamas or Likud parties. They would have gotten nowhere.

The right path ahead is clear. We must insist that the two governments, British and Irish, assume the responsibilities which are theirs. They must hammer out a set of reforms for Northern Ireland, present those reforms to the Irish people, North and South, and let those people decide. This in no way disenfranchises any political party. All parties can campaign for or against the proposals. What cannot be afforded is to allow the governments to walk away from their obligations, claiming that the IRA (or any of the others) had "ruined any chance for peace." Make no mistake: the job will be a difficult one and politicians on both sides have plenty of incentive to duck hard tasks. The idea of the responsibility of the Governments to move ahead must be promoted by Irish America and it must be done now. The election, whatever its outcome, is not likely to revive the peace process given the inherent flaws in the all-party format. What hope can there possibly be from talks where the parties can't agree to anything substantive. The presence of Sinn Fein at these talks will only provoke further Unionist intransigence. If they won't negotiate with John Hume, what are the chances of them negotiating with Gerry Adams. We call upon the Irish American press and all activist groups to get behind this idea now. Failure to do so could doom Northern Ireland to decades of more blood and tears.

Visit the PEC on the World Wide Web

Now you can access the home page for the PEC on the World Wide Web.

The address for the PEC's Website is: <http://www.sirius.com/~weet/pec/>

The PEC would like to thank California PEC member Chris Yonts for all his great work in putting the PEC's home page together. Have your family, friends and associates visit our website.

Newsbits by Kathy Regan

The main lesson to be learned from the IRA ceasefire is that, if the IRA were to disappear off the planet tomorrow, then peace would not come to Ireland in the conditions that prevail here at present. The British have no interest in peace. They looked on sullenly as nationalist Ireland and America forged the peace process and worked tirelessly for a ceasefire and then by a combination of studied passivity and behind the scenes cynicism, effectively slammed the door shut on an historic opportunity. The greatest obstacle to peace here is the total absence of democracy- a state of affairs that wouldn't suddenly end if the paramilitaries called it a day. And it is only by the restoration of democracy, or at least by the implementation of meaningful measures designed to bring that about, that the violence that has crippled this state since its inception will finally end and no amount of righteous indignation or petty political point-scoring will change that.

(Andersonstown News, 1/11/97)

Britain's interest in the north remains fundamentally the same as the one it had one hundred, two hundred or three hundred years ago.

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OUR VIEW

Last month the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs held a special hearing on the cases of the seven Irish nationals and their families who are fighting deportation back to Northern Ireland. Turn to page six for a full report.

The Ad Hoc Committee followed up with a letter to President Clinton asking that he intervene in these cases on behalf of these men and that he meet with the committee to discuss the matter. This letter was signed by one Senator and 50 members of Congress. The PEC and other Irish American organizations also wrote to the President supporting the measures requested by the Committee.

Now is the time for President Clinton to take action. Not only should he meet with the leaders of the Ad Hoc Committee but also he must intervene and stop the persecution of these men and their families.

Because of the actions of the INS and the Justice Department in pursuing these men, American families are at risk. These men have American wives and a combined total of 10 American children who will be ripped from their homes and forced to move to Northern Ireland. President Clinton must put an end to this immediately.

It is unconscionable that on one hand the administration has taken great strides in supporting the search for peace in Ireland but is completely undermining that same process by attempting to force the deportees from this country.

American values and indeed the family values that this administration is promoting will be a mockery if these families are not allowed to remain in this country.

It is very important that the President immediately put an end to the pursuit of these men and their families. Please turn to Action Request #1 on page six. The White House must be flooded with letters and phone calls to let the President know our feelings on this issue.

Where are the New Members?

In last month's *American Irish Newsletter*, the PEC launched a membership drive, asking that members help recruit new members with a special \$15 subscription rate.

So far the response has been dismal. The number of new members that have been recruited in response to this drive is minimal. Now is the time. We need your help to recruit these new members. They are our life-blood.

The St. Patrick's day season is the perfect opportunity for you to go out and recruit new members. Most of you will be attending St. Patrick's day functions i.e. parades, dances, socials etc... At these functions, pass out copies of last month's R&D in the *American Irish Newsletter*, entitled *Peace in Ireland Needs Your Help*. This R&D

Published by

American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC

A non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization

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Please redouble your efforts to get these new members to join. We need them. As we have told you before, since the ceasefires of 1994, PEC has experienced a decrease in membership. **People thought it was all over. Peace with justice was on the way. They were wrong.**

We need to increase our membership if we are to be able to continue the fight for peace with justice in Ireland.

**Send Offensive Situations to: Paul Newman,
9 Deltic Road, New City, NY 10956**

From the North: Bloody Sunday Ambush

by Don Mullan, *Author of the explosive new book
Eyewitness Bloody Sunday*

On Sunday January 30, 1972, I witnessed mass murder as a 15 year old schoolboy. I was at the rubble barricade on Rossville Street, Derry, close to the entrance of Glenfada Park when the 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment entered the Bogside. I saw Michael Kelly shot dead and saw others fall.

I can state categorically, with honesty and with certainty, that I saw no civilians with either guns or nail bombs. Together with thousands of eyewitnesses present on the day, I know that those killed and wounded on Bloody Sunday were unarmed. I know they were innocent. I know they were murdered.

The research which I conducted in the course of producing **Eyewitness Bloody Sunday** and which formed the basis for Britain's Channel Four Special Report on January 17 of this year, has yielded new evidence. This evidence concerns the very real possibility of a British Army sniper shooting to kill and wound from the vicinity of Derry's Walls on Bloody Sunday. This evidence is supported by almost 50 eyewitness statements, medical and ballistic opinion and is strongly supported by an analysis of RUC and British Army radio transcripts, the Log Book of the 8th Infantry Brigade and recently obtained statements of soldiers of the Royal Anglian Regiment who were positioned on Derry's walls that afternoon. The circumstances of the killings of William Nash, John Young and Michael McDaid are now seriously disputed. In other words, who shot them and from where?

This new evidence is crucial to the campaign to have the Widgery Tribunal Report repudiated in its entirety and to have the case reopened. Lord Widgery confined himself to accounting for 108 rounds allegedly fired by 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment and nothing else. The fact that the firing of live ammunition from the vicinity of Derry's Walls was ignored by Lord Widgery, suggests a much wider across the board cover-up of a military operation which was, I believe, at some level, politically sanctioned in advance.

While this new evidence has initially focused our attention on the role of soldiers positioned on the walls, this should not in any way deflect from the serious crimes committed by 1 Para under the command of Lt. Col. Derek Wilford against a civilian gathering on that day. Eyewitnesses have absolutely no doubt concerning the military homicide of Jackie Duddy, Patrick Doherty, Bernard McGuigan, Hugh Gilmore, Kevin McIlhinnney, Michael Kelly, James Wray, Gerald Donaghy, Gerard McKinney and William McKinney.

The statements established in **Eyewitness Bloody Sunday** are a compelling account of civilian heroism and terror in the face of a chilling attack which increasingly appears to have been a premeditated military ambush on unarmed civilians

The role played by Lord Widgery and other sectors of the British Establishment created a very dangerous alienation from the

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institutions of government and law. In the aftermath of Bloody Sunday, Republican violence was indeed responsible for terrible acts. But to blame Republican violence for all subsequent troubles is dishonest. Where a democratically elected government shows itself to be an active and willing participant in a violent crime against its citizens (and subsequently involves its judiciary in a cover-up), the government cannot escape responsibility for the consequences of its actions.

I have no doubt that Bloody Sunday unleashed a wave of violence across the Province, which resulted in the deaths of many other innocent people.

It is no coincidence that more people died during the following six months (256) than during the previous three years of the 'Troubles' (210). It is no coincidence that more people died during the following eleven months of 1972 than more people died during any other year of the conflict. Between 1 February and 30 December 1972, 445 deaths occurred. Adding these deaths to the toll for the following years - 1973 (252); 1974 (294); 1975 (257) and 1976 (295) - the total of all 1,543 deaths represents 47 percent of all deaths (3,285) that occurred in the twenty-five years between 1969 and the end of 1993.

Those responsible for Bloody Sunday therefore have a lot to answer for.

For further information contact:

**American Ireland Education
Foundation-PEC**
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Stony Point, NY 10980
(800) 777-6807

Newsbits *cont. from page 1*

It is an interest based on the desire to dominate and subjugate. In a world in which the relevance of Britain as an international force is receding by the day, the importance of being able to lay down the law in at least one corner of a smaller neighbor becomes correspondingly more important.
(*Andersonstown News*, 1/18/97)

It is often said that those who demand the withdrawal of the British government from Ireland and the reunification of the country are "inspired by romantic nationalism." They are not romantics. They are determined and capable realists. There is however such a thing as romantic non-rational politics. Clinging to a political arrangement which binds us to a disappearing British power and a failing British economy, with at most 18 powerless positions in a parliament of over 600 people is irrational. It is a product of a romantic notion of greatness which no longer exists and which in any case was greatness achieved by terror. The sooner we in Ireland get out from under the failed British system the better for our economy and our democratic future.
(*Andersonstown News*, 1/25/97)

Sister Sarah Clarke (born in 1919) has kept a diary throughout her 26 years of ministering to prisoners needs, campaigning against the Prevention of Terrorism Act, exclusion orders and strip searching. At the age of 52, she joined the London branch of NICRA (Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association). After two innocent civilians were shot dead by the British Army in Derry in July, 1971, a demonstration was organized for Trafalgar Square. She decided that black flags should be carried and fashioned them out of the old black habits other sisters at the convent were discarding in favor of more modern clothes.
(*Andersonstown News*, 1/18/97)

James A. Farley

by Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts*

When America faced the bleakest days of the Great Depression of the 1930's, it looked to President Franklin D. Roosevelt as a beacon of hope. It was President Roosevelt who looked to an American Irish leader James Aloysius Farley to guide his New Deal along.

Farley was born in 1888 in Rockland County, NY, just north of New York City. He became active in politics at the very young age of eight when he became a torch bearer for a William Jennings Bryan rally in Rockland County. When Farley was nine his father, a brick manufacturer died in an industrial accident. Young James had to work in selling newspapers, working in a grocery store and a saloon in order to support himself and his family. He also worked as a laborer in the brick yards of Rockland County. His formal education ended in 1905 when he graduated from Stony Point, NY High School. (The same town where the PEC is located)

He went to work for the Universal Gypsum Company as a bookkeeper and salesman. In 1912 he ran an intense campaign to become Town Clerk of Stony Brook, NY. His victory was remarkable, considering he was an Irish-Catholic Democrat in a Republican town. He soon won many friends with his caring service to the town. In 1918 he was elected Democratic Chairman of Rockland Co.. He became involved in organizing Al Smith's successful N.Y. State Governor's races. He later served as Port Warden of the City of New York. He later went on to become Town Supervisor of Stony Brook, NY and served one term in the NY State Assembly in Albany. Farley went on to become NY State Athletic Commissioner and the Chairperson of the NY State Democratic Party. He managed Franklin Delano Roosevelt's sweeping election victory as Governor of the Empire State.

Farley along with Bronx Borough President Edward Flynn urged Roosevelt to run for President in 1932. Farley traveled to many states and met thousands of people in an effort to garner votes for FDR. When Roosevelt became President, Farley became a top advisor to the President. Farley's ideas led to many of Roosevelt's sweeping social programs that brought many Americans out of the depths of poverty and despair. Farley was appointed as Postmaster General of the United States by Roosevelt. Farley's plans built hundreds of post offices from Boston to Los Angeles. He modernized the operations of the postal service and turned it into the best in the world. He brought labor reforms to the postal service that allowed workers to organize labor unions. Many of Farley's post offices still serve American communities today.

After he left Government Service, he became Chairman of the Coca-Cola Export Corporation. Under Farley's leadership Coca-Cola went from a mostly North American product to the most sold beverage in the world. His last political campaign came in 1965 when he ran Abraham Beame's NY city Mayoral campaign. Farley always maintained a keen interest in Irish history and culture. He did much to pave the way for American Irish participation in White House policy making. He helped many. Farley died on June 9, 1976 and was another of the American Irish who helped improve the United States.

American Irish Newsletter on the Web

Now you can read selected stories from the *American Irish Newsletter* on the World Wide Web. This is a very important way to spread our message to new people as well as keeping others up to date on the situation in Northern Ireland.

The address for the *American Irish Newsletter* is: <http://www.us-irish.com>

The PEC would like to thank Texas PEC member Curt Jacobsen for putting the *American Irish Newsletter* on the Web.

A Call for Democracy in Ireland

by Rev. Joe McVeigh

Irish democrats claim with justification that the Irish peace process collapsed in February 1995 because of British and unionist intransigence. The refusal by the British Tory government and the unionist parties to engage with all the Irish parties including Sinn Féin to find a way forward to a negotiated settlement led to much distrust and the inevitable breakdown of the IRA ceasefire.

However, the Irish nationalist parties which made up the tentative Irish consensus were far from clear or united about the core issues and what kind of settlement they were going to negotiate. There were serious differences of opinion about the issues of consent and agreement. This created suspicion and distrust within the broad republican community. Before a new peace process can be established with any hope of succeeding, it is necessary for Irish democrats to identify as far as possible, the key or core issues that must be resolved if there is to be a just and lasting peace. There must be broad general agreement on the meaning of self-determination.

There is confusion within republican and nationalist circles about the Dublin and SDLP leaders' attitude to British support for the wishes of a majority within the six-county framework. There is a need for something like a Charter for Irish Democracy which is acceptable to the broad nationalist/republican community in Ireland.

In order to advance the argument in favor of creating a new political dispensation Irish nationalists and republicans must have an agreed understanding of our history and of Britain's role in Ireland. This is part of a necessary process of identifying the root causes of the conflict

A major weakness in the Irish position, which became evident at the Dublin Forum for Peace and Reconciliation, is that most of the Irish political parties now accept the unionist veto which they euphemistically refer to as "consent". It is worth noting that consent is an enabling thing which works both ways and that northern nationalists and

republicans have never consented to partition. This weakness in the nationalist consensus needs to be addressed urgently if a new nationalist consensus is to be built around the core issues facing the Irish people in any future negotiations with the British.

The drawing up of an Irish Democracy Charter to which all parties on the nationalist /republican side could give agreement would be one way of ensuring the full participation of all democrats in the democratic process. Such a charter would evolve after discussion among all those committed to a peaceful and democratic settlement based on the right to self-determination.

A new and strong nationalist/republican consensus in Ireland, supported by friends of Irish democracy abroad should seek the creation of an Irish democracy within the context of the right of the Irish people as a whole to national self-determination. Only such a nationalist consensus can lead to a totally new political situation that will guarantee a democratic future. Such a consensus seeking a just solution based on democratic principles would show the world that the British and unionists have a case to answer. One lesson from the experience of conflict resolution in South Africa is the power of a united front persistently seeking a new political dispensation based on justice and democracy.

Partition has failed. The Six County statelet is a failed political entity. It is time for the British to accept that the maintenance of a privileged unionist system is anti-democratic and has been the root cause of violent conflict here for generations. Future political negotiations based on the desire for a just and lasting peace must accept the failure of past undemocratic arrangements which were imposed by Britain. They must now seek, through negotiation to construct new democratic political arrangements that recognize the rights of the Irish people and ensure equality for all Irish citizens.

The Six county statelet is inherently undemocratic based as it is on a religious head-count and against the declared wishes of the vast majority of the

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Irish people. However, the right of unionists to a say in determining the future political landscape in Ireland must be recognized by all Irish democrats.

Only when the British are persuaded to accept their responsibility for the conflict here and are compelled to engage in negotiations with representatives of all the Irish people can, we have any real hope of beginning to build a democracy. Only then will unionists realize that they should, in the interest of the welfare of all the people here, seek an accommodation with the rest of the Irish people. Only then will Irish democrats be able to see that at last the British are taking the demand for Irish national self-determination seriously.

The Irish peace initiative in 1994 invited the British government to take its responsibility for ending the conflict here seriously. The British failed to take up the invitation. The task facing Irish democrats now is not just to try to convince the British and the unionists but to convince the Irish parties that only when they act in solidarity to demand just and democratic structures to replace the undemocratic six county statelet will there be any real progress towards a lasting peace. The British policy of supporting the unionist position must be challenged by a strong Irish consensus demanding recognition for the right of the Irish people as a whole to national self-determination and the implementation of policies to allow that right to find expression.

There needs to be an unswerving commitment by Irish nationalist and republican leaders to the social and political transformation of this country so that all sections of the community interested in building an Irish democracy as envisaged by the leaders of 1916, can become involved. This commitment will contradict those commentators who claim that an Irish consensus is divisive. An Irish consensus will seek to unite all Irish people-nationalist and unionist around the idea of creating a modern democracy.

New ideas about democracy and freedom are required; new institutions are required that will allow the ideas to find expression. Surely such imagination and courage can be found among the Irish.

Published March 1997 by AIEF-PEC

Bloody Sunday: Twenty-Five Years Later

by Robert Heatley, *co-founder of the Campaign for Democracy, a predominantly Protestant organization that supports a united Ireland*

When one is considering the morass that is Northern Ireland, it is essential, in order to see through the artifice of British propaganda, to (in the words of John Major) "get back to basics." Nothing illustrates this point more than its explanation of the events of Bloody Sunday January 30th 1972. The British army shot dead 13 young civilian men, peaceful civil rights demonstrators, and wounded 17 other people, including two women. One of the wounded men subsequently died. It was an atrocity, carried out within the United Kingdom.

Perhaps because the event was so appalling many commentators in the British news-media (even yet), are unable to face up to what the Edward Heath government of 1972 had done. They buy the black propaganda that was fed out to them at that time. But then that is their customary traditional attitude ... at least when it comes to Ireland. And so they profess to be baffled as to why Bloody Sunday will not just go away. Northern Ireland they complain, has, over the past quarter century, witnessed bloody and tragic events. What they fail to appreciate is that, many of these have occurred as a consequence of Bloody Sunday.

As public relations officer of the Belfast Executive of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, at that time, I was present on Bloody Sunday in a minor organizational capacity. I remember well what took place. How could anyone forget? With John McClelland and his wife Margaret, fellow Protestant members of NICRA (John being on the National Executive), I had been deputed to convey Lord Fenner Brockway to the rally in Derry where he was to be one of the principal speakers. Because he did not know the place, we were to chaperon him.

Like other nationalist/republican areas, Free Derry Corner was in a No-Go zone insofar as the British authorities were concerned. Any legitimate government would have had a genuine grievance about being shut off part of their jurisdictional territory by armed 'insurgents'. But of course Northern Ireland is not a normal situation. Whatever British governments may be in Britain, they are not – nor have they ever been DEMOCRATIC in Ireland (and that includes Northern Ireland).

Over the previous 50 years Britain had erected and administered through the

locally-based Unionist Party, a political cesspool in Northern Ireland. There had been one-party, sectarian government upheld by a paramilitary police force which deployed PERMANENT 'emergency' laws in a police state fashion. The all-embracing law was the Civil Authorities (Special Powers) Act, the envy of Apartheid South Africa. By condoning the anti-democratic practices of unionism, the British state generated the primitive and vicious religious sectarianism which its spokespeople now attempt to portray themselves as being 'above'. How hypocritical and cynical can one get? If Mayhew deplores the neo-Nazi aspects of Northern Ireland's society (his words), then he and his numerous governing predecessors are responsible for them. There is no getting away from that!

Electorally Northern Ireland, as such was a gerrymandered constituency. Local elections too were gerrymandered to benefit the Unionist Party. With all power (in very restricted areas) monopolized to themselves, the unionists doled out favor to their own supporters at the expense of those who were not connected to the establishment. Orangeism played a major part in this corrupt system, anti-Catholic discrimination took place in the allocation of scarce jobs and houses. Northern Ireland was always an unemployment black spot characterized by low living standards.

Relatively speaking large numbers of the young were forced to emigrate especially those who were outside Orange-Unionism. Presiding over all of this (with the real reins of power in their hands) were, of course, Westminster and Whitehall which had used this strategy in order to retain Northern Ireland in 1920 and partition six counties off from the rest of the Ireland.

No! Northern Ireland was not a normal case. It was a colonial foothold of the British. Therefore, when No-Goism occurred it was in a way almost a logical, if not an inevitable outcome.

So on January 30th 1972, the lid blew off the simmering Northern Ireland cauldron. The occasion: a peaceful, non-sectarian demonstration for internationally understood basic civil rights that had been denied to non-Unionists for 50 years.

The government had yet another grudge which was agitating it in addition to No-Goism. In the months preceding the

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Derry event, it had been attempting to deal with civil rights by driving it off the streets. Bill Craig, its Home Affairs go-between at Stormont had been colluding with Paisley in organizing 'counter-demonstrations' at the same time and place as those announced by civil rights. In this way a pretext was drummed up for banning civil rights marches on the grounds of law and order. When confrontations took place the RUC always stood with their backs to the Paisleyites.

With Drumcree in 1996 nothing much has changed. The 1972 Derry rally therefore was taking place not only in a No-Go area. It had been banned and it was yet another episode in a campaign which had successfully defied the ban: it was yet another example of the repressive government's authority being mocked. NICRA and its supporters had to be taught a lesson! Nevertheless no one suspected what was to lie in store.

Evidence has accumulated to establish that the British account of the massacre via the discredited Widgery 'enquiry' was what NICRA said it was at the time – a pathetically cobbled together whitewash. Over 60 MPs at Westminster are now demanding a proper enquiry. Major's government is resisting these demands. It has many reasons for doing so. The claim that the British army reacted spontaneously under the provocation of gunfire is now pooh-poohed by most people.

Despite the possibility of international odium falling upon their heads, the British authorities stood a good chance of attaining two objectives:

- 1) The termination of NICRA's public mass-actions.
- 2) The beginning of the dismantlement of the No-Go areas.

The British thought that the IRA would not be able to resist such a provocation. Its retaliation would be the pretext for an invasion of the Bogside and the Creggan. But matters went wrongly at that stage.

It was not until after NICRA's massive Bloody Sunday protest march at Newry (the biggest anti-unionist demo ever) that the first objective was attained. The second objective had to await a short interval and then the British ended the no-go areas. Even so, Mr. Heath too will be pondering on the fact of the haunting permanency of the decisions taken under his governance on that day.

Published March 1997 by AIEF-PEC

Lord of the Dance

Lord of the Dance is now available from AIEF-PEC. Riverdance star Michael Flatley has moved out on his own and is the star of the new production Lord of the Dance. The highly acclaimed show filmed at the Point Theatre in Dublin takes Irish Dancing to spectacular new heights.

Michael Flatley takes to the stage in a stunning Celtic dance spectacular which re-tells Irish folk legend in a dazzling and updated style.

Lord of the Dance is a magnificent production and the perfect follow up to Riverdance.
VHS 90 minutes..... \$24.95

Eyewitness Bloody Sunday

Eyewitness Bloody Sunday by Don Mullan is the explosive new book that has put the atrocities committed by the British Army on that day back into the news. The new evidence uncovered in this book has become the basis for calls for a new investigation into the events of Bloody Sunday.

On January 30, 1972 on a bright sunny afternoon in Derry, thirteen men were shot dead by the British Army. Within days of the killings, over 500 eyewitness testimonies were recorded to be presented to the Widgery Tribunal. Only 15 were considered.

Forgotten for over 20 years, they have now all been unearthed by Don Mullan, himself an eyewitness. Over 100 are published here for the first time in **Eyewitness Bloody Sunday**.

Marking the 25th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, these accounts pierce to the heart of the days events. They reveal the terrible truth that the British establishment still refuses to disclose.

This poignant book is sure to shake the foundations at Westminster. Paperback 288 pages..... \$17.95

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To charge: call (800) 777-6807 Tuesday thru Friday, 9am to 5pm (Visa/Mastercard only).

The Great Starvation An Irish Holocaust

The Great Starvation-An Irish Holocaust, by Dr. Seamus Mettress and Richard A. Rajner is an analysis of the Great Hunger of 1845-50 in the context on 19th century colonialism. It critically examines the interactions of biology and climate, land tenure, economic theory, political expediency and British racism towards the Irish in determining the magnitude of this massive catastrophe. It is an answer to the anti-nationalist revisionism so prevalent in many recent interpretations of the Great Hunger.

Anyone who wants to learn what really happened during the Great Hunger must read this book. The book is also excellent reading material for students and beginners.

Published by the American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC, Paperback, 148 pages.....\$9.00

Before the Dawn

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams' controversial autobiography **Before the Dawn** is now available from the PEC. **Before the Dawn** gives the reader a poignant insight into the man behind the public figure. For his childhood to the civil rights marches throughout the long conflict in Northern Ireland, this book gives a unique perspective into Adams' life. The book details Adams' involvement in the Republican movement from his days organizing the defense of Nationalist areas from Loyalist pogroms right up to his present position as President of Sinn Fein and leader of the Irish peace process. It should be read by all. Hardcover 378 pages... \$25.00

Riverdance

The spectacular show played before sold out audiences from Ireland to Europe to New York. This unique video presentation captures the exhilarating show performed by the original cast, live from Dublin. Starring Michael Flatley and Jean Butler. 78 Minutes, VHS\$24.95

When Ireland Starved

This powerful documentary exposes the full devastation of the Great Hunger of 1845-50 which occurred at a time when there was enough food in Ireland to feed twice its population. Skillfully made using archival sketches, location shots and interviews, this video provides a chance to understand and learn about this catastrophic event that has been for too long solely blamed on the "potato blight."
Two hours, VHS\$29.95

Action Requests

Write the letters below (or call), preferably in your own words, or as is. Be courteous. Have friends, organizations, business associates, etc., do the same.

Hon. Bill Clinton
President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500
Ph# (202) 456-1111
Fax# (202) 456-2461

Message: Please intervene and stop the deportation proceedings against the seven Irish-American families that are now pending. These men have American wives and families. They should be allowed to remain in this country.

2. Rt. Hon. John Major M.P.
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1 0AA, England

Message: In light of the new evidence surrounding the murder of 13 unarmed nationalists on Bloody Sunday, there must be a new investigation into the events surrounding Bloody Sunday. In the interests of justice for the families of those killed on that day, there must be a new investigation and an apology from your government.

Congressional Hearing on Deportation Cases

On February 6, 1997, the **Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs** held a special hearing on the cases of the seven Irish nationals who are fighting deportation back to Northern Ireland.

The hearing, which was chaired by **Representative Tom Manton (D-NY)**, consisted of four panels which all gave testimony on the deportation cases. The four panels were: one consisting of **Mr. David Martin**, the general counsel for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The second panel consisted of the wives of the men facing deportation. The third panel consisted of leaders from the **PEC** and other Irish American organizations including the **AOH, Brehon Law Society, IAUC, INA and the INC**. The last panel was a group of lawyers involved with the cases including **Bruce Morrison, Martin Galvin and Michael Maggio**.

Mr. Martin encountered serious and vocal opposition from members of the committee. He stated that the INS was following the law, all the deportees were felons and no exceptions were possible. He was forced to recant this statement under questioning from **Rep. Peter King (R-NY)**. Rep. King asked if **South African President Nelson Mandela** tried to immigrate to the United States, would the INS move to exclude him based on his past convictions? **Mr. Martin** was forced to admit that exceptions are made. He also stated the position of the INS that the new immigration law which would make it extremely difficult for the deportees to win their cases would be applied to these cases and was retroactive. This position evoked angry opposition from members of the Committee, many of whom supported the new immigration law.

The panel consisting of the wives of the deportees movingly described the plight of their families and children. Many of the panelists brought many in the packed audience to tears as they described the hardships they would face if their husbands were forced to return to Northern Ireland.

PEC Director of Operations Sean Kane, testified to the dangers that these men and their families would face from Loyalist terrorists, as well as the extreme hardship that the young children of these men will face if they are forced to leave their homes, friends and schools in the US and force to move to a war-zone where their lives would be in danger.

The Ad Hoc Committee followed up on the hearing with a letter to President Clinton asking that he intervene in the cases and that he meet with a delegation from the Ad Hoc Committee. The letter was supported by 1 Senator and 50 members of Congress.

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